

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 L-02 SP-02 SS-15

IGA-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /052 W
----- 127554

P 211659Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0263

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 08221

AFR/DS FOR MORGAN GILBERT

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, ELTN, GW, GB

SUBJECT: GABON ACCESS ROADS MEETING WITH FRG.

REF: KINSHASA 4130

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AFTER A DISCUSSION WITH OFFICIALS OF MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, WEDEMAN IS OPTIMISTIC THAT FRG WILL GO ALONG WITH ARRANGEMENTS OUTLINED IN PARA 1 OF REFTL. FAVORABLE FACTORS ARE (I) FRG DESIRE TO PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH WISHES OF GOG; AND (II) HEIGHTENED REALIZATION THAT MECHANICS OF AID FINANCING DO NOT NECESSARILY IMPINGE ON FRG'S UNTIED PROCUREMENT POLICY OR MAKE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DIFFICULT. FINAL POSITION WILL BE DETERMINED WHEN BONN HAS HEARD FROM ITS EMBASSY IN LIBREVILLE AND HAS RECEIVED THE TEXT OF THE PROCES VERBAL. FRG HAS INFORMAL REPORT FROM KFW REPRESENTATIVE WHO ATTENDED LIBREVILLE MEETING BUT NOTHING YET FROM AMB. WALLNER. ON BASIS OF SOUNDINGS IN BONN, PROCESSING OF PROJECT TO AUTHORIZATION SHOULD PROCEED AS PLANNED. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 2L, WEDEMAN AND EMBOFF MET WITH DR. EHM,
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DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS, AND FRAU KOCH,

HIS DEPUTY, OF MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION TO REVIEW RESULTS OF MAY 14-15 LIBREVILLE MEETING. EHM IN COMMENTING ON THE INFORMAL AGREEMENT REACHED IN LIBREVILLE (HIS REPORT FROM WENDRICK OF KFW ACCORDED WITH REFTEL) MADE TWO POINTS:

- A. FRG WANTS TO MAKE SURE IT PROCEEDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH WISHES OF GOG REGARDING PHASE I IMPLEMENTATION.
- B. WHILE FRG ON POLICY GROUNDS HAS PROBLEMS WITH TIED PROCUREMENT, A MAJOR CONCERN IS THAT SUCH PROCUREMENT CAN MAKE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION FOR AID RECIPIENTS DIFFICULT. FROM THE TENOR OF EHM'S REMARKS, THE LATTER SEEMED TO WEIGH MORE HEAVILY THAN THE ISSUE OF POLICY.
- 3. EHM SEEMED IMPRESSED WITH THE FOLLOWING POINTS WHICH WERE MADE IN THE CONVERSATION:
 - A. NOT ONLY THE INITIATIVE TAKEN BY THE GOG IN CALLING THE MEETING BUT ALSO THE FORCEFUL LEADERSHIP SHOWN BY RAWIRI AND HIS ASSOCIATES CULMINATING IN THE GOG'S NEGOTIATION WITH AMB. WALLNER AND THE PREPARATION OF THE PROCES VERBAL.
 - B. THE FACT THAT THE GOG IS NOW ACTIVELY SPONSORING THE UTILIZATION OF AID'S FINANCING IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 1.C. OF REFTEL.
 - C. THE CONSIDERATION THAT UNLESS AID'S FINANCING PROCEEDS ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED, THE GOG WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN USING AID'S MONEY .
 - D. AID'S PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE WITH THE APPROACH OUTLINED IN PARA L.C. OF REFTEL, WHICH HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY.
- 4. KOCH COMMENTED THAT THE WAY THE GOG PROPOSED TO PROCEED WITH UTILIZATION OF AID FUNDS DID NOT SEEM TO

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P 211659Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0264
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
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POSE ANY TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES. SHE ALSO SEEMED TO BE SAYING THE APPROACH DID NOT VIOLATE THE FRG'S POLICY ON TIED PROCUREMENT. IN FACT SHE SAID JOINT FINANCING WAS NOT INVOLVED.

5. THE QUESTION WAS ASKED WHETHER THE GOG EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THAT IT HAD TO PROVIDE ALL FINANCING OVER AND ABOVE THAT COMING FROM THE FRG AND THE USG. THE AFFIRMATIVE ANSWER GIVEN SEEMED TO REASSURE THE FRG REPRESENTATIVES.

6. THE DISCUSSION WAS PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN ANALYZING PRECISELY WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE PHASE I PROGRAM. LIKE OURSELVES, THE MINISTRY HAD NOT SEEN THE APRIL 1974 REPORT OF THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS WHICH LAYS OUT GRAPHICALLY THE VARIOUS PIECES OF THE PROGRAM. IN THE DETAILED REVIEW OF THE PROGRAM EHM AND KOCH SEEMED TO RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULTIES IN APPLYING AID'S FINANCING TO THE ORIGINAL FINANCING PROPOSALS (ALEMBE BRIDGE, LOPE STATION ROAD, AND IVINDO-DILO ROAD), EVEN IF AID HAD UNTIED ITS FUNDS. SPECIFICALLY, THEY SAW THE ADVANTAGE THAT WOULD RESULT IF THE M'BADI-DILO ROAD, WHICH WAS ORIGINALLY SPLIT INTO TWO SEPARATE SEGMENTS, COULD BE BUILT BY ONE CONTRACTOR.

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